

INFORMATION REPORT INFORMATION REPORT

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

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COUNTRY USSR (Baltic)

REPORT

SUBJECT Soviet Naval Vessels in the Gulf of Finland

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~~SOURCE EVALUATIONS ARE DEFINITIVE APPRAISAL OF CONTENT IS TENTATIVE.~~

1. [redacted] three Soviet destroyers were observed carrying out firing exercises at a target towed by a fourth destroyer at N 59-53, E 23-40. At 1000 hours, a SVERDLOV-class cruiser was sighted. This cruiser, on an easterly course, proceeded at slow speed east of Baltischport (Paldiski). The four destroyers were all of the SKORYY type; two of them were painted dark-gray; the destroyer which towed the target and another destroyer were painted light-gray. [redacted] (For the observed target practice see sketches and legends on pages 3-5.)

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2. [redacted], a Soviet light-gray cruiser was sighted five miles south of [redacted] lightship. The cruiser, which was first sighted coming from an easterly direction, turned back and steered an easterly course. This ship was believed to be a CHAPAYEV-class cruiser.

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3. [redacted] two Soviet cruisers were sighted; one was moored between two anchors and the other was secured to a buoy between the Leningrad lightship and the north spit of the Tolbukin Bank. The cruiser riding at anchor was believed to be the MAKSIM GORKIY. It had only one triple turret aft and a catapult installation for aircraft fitted between the two stacks. The second cruiser was believed to belong to the SVERDLOV-class.

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4. [redacted] a Soviet squadron of two cruisers and four destroyers was observed on a westerly course coming from north of Odensholm Island. One of the two cruisers belonged to the SVERDLOV-class, and the other to the CHAPAYEV-class. Three of the destroyers were of the SKORYY-class, but the fourth destroyer differed from them in having no second mast.

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5. [redacted] a destroyer, apparently ex-German, was sighted on a westerly course about four miles from the position of Leningrad lightship.

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6. The Leningrad lightship was not on its station, because it had been rammed by a submarine [redacted] and had to be drydocked. About one mile west of the position of Leningrad lightship, three large mooring buoys

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were observed fixed about 500 meters apart on a line extending from east to west. A large Soviet warship, clearly identified as a GANGUT-class ship by her bent stack, was secured to one of these buoys.

7. Two vessels, apparently T-301-class minesweepers, were sighted about five miles northeast of the position of Leningrad lightship. Each towed a canvas-less target. Two destroyers of similar type executed maneuvers farther west and in the same direction. These destroyers were characterized by a raked bow, a short forecastle, one turret on the forecastle and a second gun on a step projecting from the bridge, a stepped bridge structure with fire-control station equipped with a range finder on top, a mast with topmast on the after edge of the bridge, and two rather squat stacks. The forward stack, which stood a little apart from the bridge, was of approximately the same height as the bridge. High deck structures, reaching almost to the upper edge of the stack, were immediately aft of the forward stack. A small mast was seen forward of the after stack, which also was followed by high deck structures. A gun turret was seen on the after destroyer-island, and another gun turret was mounted on deck.
8. [] a SVERDLOV-class cruiser was sighted secured to a mooring buoy not far from the position of the Leningrad lightship. 25X1
9. [] three warships showing riding lights were sighted near the north spit of Sursari Island (N 60-05, E 27-00). The three warships included one SVERDLOV-class cruiser, a two-stack destroyer with no after mast, and a small vessel which might have been a YASTREB-class torpedo boat. 25X1
10. [] a destroyer was sighted moving at high speed on a northerly course at N 49-48, E 24-30. It stopped and subsequently steered various courses at slow speed. This destroyer had a very raked bow; a forecastle extending about one-third of its total length; a bridge structure on the forecastle, with the rear end about flush with the after edge of the forecastle; a short, thick, raked stack; two masts, the forward one fitted close to the after edge of the bridge; two superimposed guns on the forecastle; and one gun aft. 25X1
11. [] two destroyers were observed near position N 48-30, E 30-00. They proceeded on a northerly course at a speed between 25 and 35 knots and developed thick smoke. 25X1

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Legend to the Sketches of the Target Practice of a Soviet Fleet SquadronI. Situation

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1. Run of first destroyer
2. Run of second destroyer
3. Run of third destroyer
4. Destroyer towing the target
5. Passing ship

At 0935 hours the destroyer towing the target reversed course, the third destroyer altered course to 210 degrees and a little later to 050 degrees, the second destroyer altered course to 250 degrees and the first destroyer to 030 degrees. At 0937 hours the second destroyer altered course toward the target and, at 0940 hours, steered 200 degrees. The other two destroyers steamed away at high speed on an easterly course.

II. Situation at 1005 hours

1. First destroyer
2. Second destroyer
3. Third destroyer
4. Fourth destroyer towing the target
5. Passing ship
6. SVERDLOV-class cruiser

A SVERDLOV-class cruiser on an easterly course was sighted at 1000 hours. The destroyer towing the target steamed past the cruiser north of Destroyer No. 2 took an easterly course and was about four miles from the target. Destroyers Nos. 1 and 3 changed course to 240 degrees and were about eight or nine miles from the target.

III. Situation at 1030 hours

The third destroyer fired from her forward and after guns at the target. No splashes or hits were observed.

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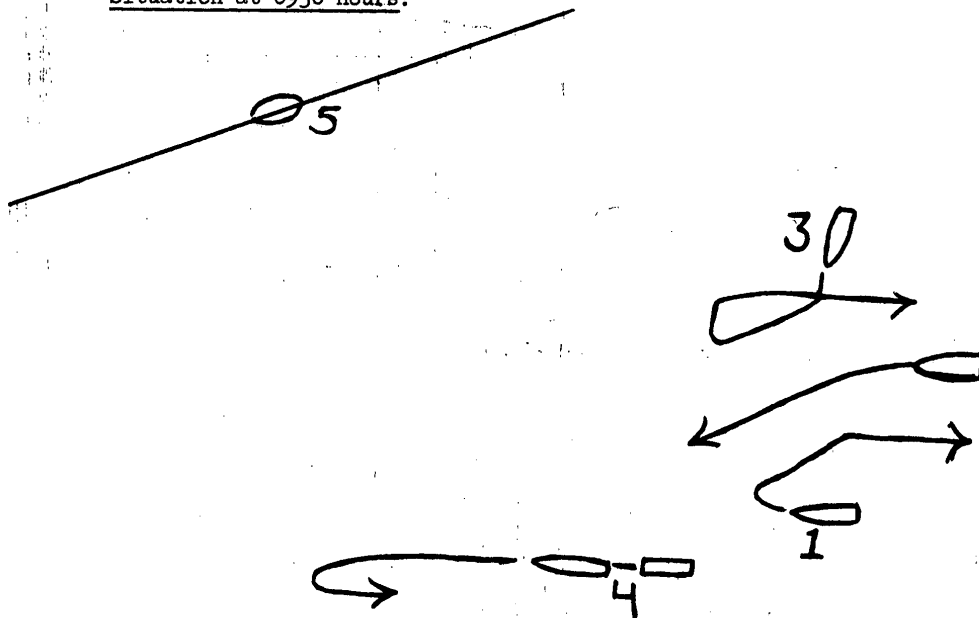
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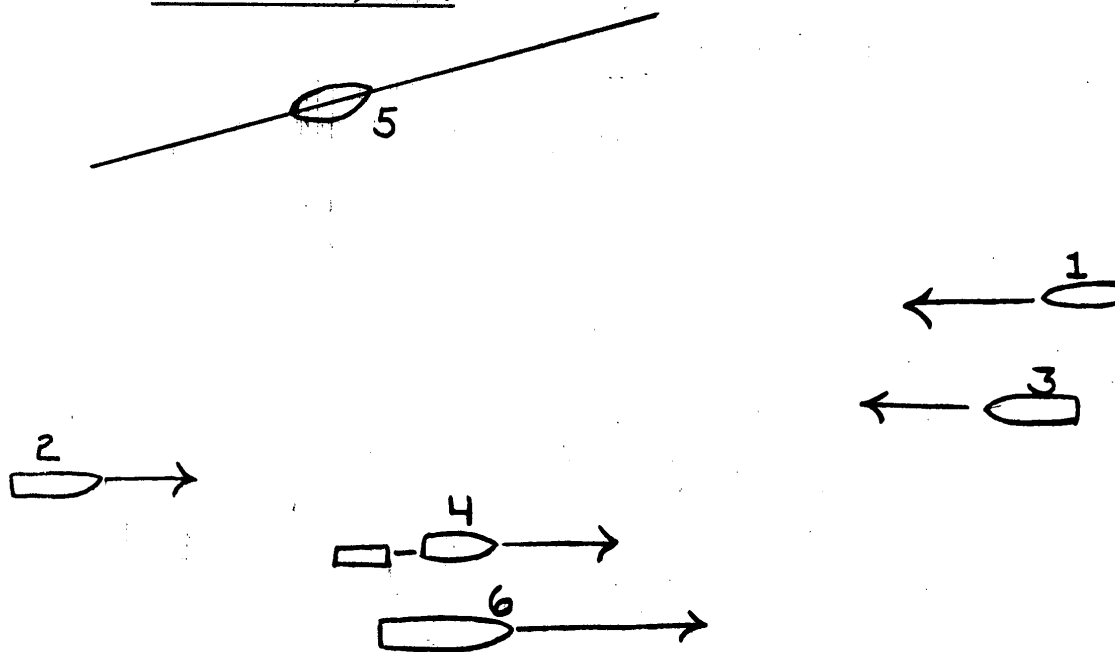
Sketch No. 1.

Situation at 0930 hours:



Sketch No. 2.

Situation at 1005 hours:



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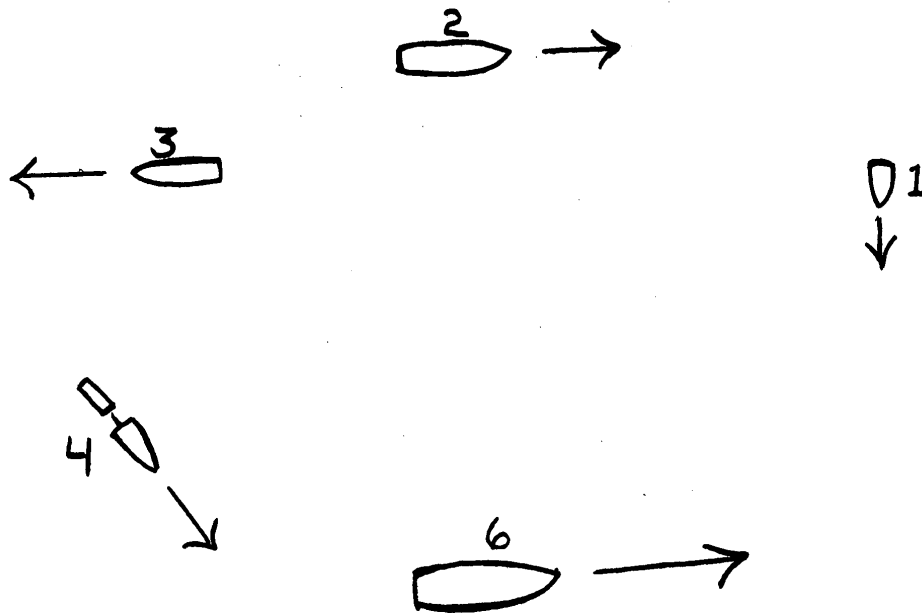
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Sketch No. 3.

Situation at 1030 hours:



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